



10TH DISTRICT WINTER 2010 NEWSLETTER



Milwaukee County Supervisor
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10th District

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YOUR MILWAUKEE COUNTY CONNECTION

Dear Friend,

It gives me great pride and pleasure to serve you as your Milwaukee County Supervisor for the past twenty years. I thank you for re-electing me to serve for another term. As the global economy is having a difficult time, so is Milwaukee County. The challenges before us are a bit overwhelming but we will persevere. Frederick Douglas once said, "Without struggle there is no progress." I stand with your support to tackle the challenges within Milwaukee County Government. I want to hear your comments and suggestions to improve the quality of life in Milwaukee County. I am here to represent you!

My leadership appointments on the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors include serving as Chairwoman of the Finance & Audit Committee, Chairwoman of the Combined Community Services Board and Chairwoman of the Task Force on Work Reform for Men of Color. I also serve on the Parks, Recreation & Culture and Health & Human Needs Committees.

I hope and pray that this newsletter enlightens and educates you on the work that goes on in Milwaukee County Government. I also want to share with you that my personal life has had some transitions. I am back to being known as "Elizabeth M. Coggs" as I am single again.

FAITH, HOPE AND HARMONY,

Milwaukee County Supervisor
Elizabeth M. Coggs

Have Some Winter Fun with Milwaukee County **FREE** Days!

❄ Complimentary admission to Milwaukee County Residents
ONLY with valid photo ID on the following days: ❄

 MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM FREE Every Wednesday! (excludes special exhibits)	 MITCHELL PARK DOMES FREE Every Monday! from 9:00AM - Noon (except major holidays)
 MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM FREE Every Monday! (additional charges apply for the Humphrey IMAX Dome, Daniel M. Soref Planetarium & special exhibitions)	 Milwaukee County ZOO 2010 FREE Days Jan 2, Feb 6, Mar 6, Apr 10, Nov 6, Dec 4, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day & New Year's Day

MILWAUKEE COUNTY BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

- Finance and Audit Committee, Chair
- Health and Human Needs Committee
- Parks, Energy and Environment Committee

MEMBERSHIPS

- Combined Community Service Board, Chair
- Vision for Vliet Task Force, Chair
- Work Reform for Men of Color Task Force, Chair
- National Association of Counties (NACo)
- National Organization of Black County Officials
- Milwaukee County Friends of Africa, Inc.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Back-to-School Festival Board, Founder
- Greater Holy Temple Christian Academy Board
- Abundant Life Ministry, Inc.
- King Advisory, Inc. Board
- Holy Redeemer Institutional Church of God in Christ

State Should Keep Assistance Programs At Current Site

A coalition of Milwaukee County Supervisors Peggy West, Toni Clark & Elizabeth Coggs along with Representative Leon Young, Senator G. Spencer Coggs and Alderwoman Milele Coggs are asking for an appeal of the State of Wisconsin's apparent decision to relocate public assistance programs currently housed at the Marcia P. Coggs Human Services Center in Milwaukee. Over the objections of Milwaukee County, the State has taken over the administration of the Income Maintenance (IM) program.

The State of Wisconsin is taking a program away from Milwaukee County and unnecessarily costing our County taxpayers millions of dollars in the process. These are dollars that could be used to benefit those in our community who need the help most.

The move does not make sense for taxpayers or clients and would be a bad business decision for a variety of reasons, including the following:

- It is believed that the Coggs Center bid was the lowest submitted. Selecting another location would be more costly for taxpayers.
- Vacating the Coggs Center would leave a large vacancy within Milwaukee County's real estate portfolio and result in less revenue from the State, costing taxpayers \$1.2 million.
- Physically moving these services and transitioning to a new facility would cost taxpayers.



City, state and county officials held a news conference asking for an appeal to relocate public assistance programs housed at the Marcia P. Coggs Human Services Center.

- Any move would require a costly public information campaign to inform constituents of the new location. Once again, taxpayers will have to foot that bill.

At the least, this development is very troubling for this neighborhood and the entire Milwaukee County community. The State's management of child welfare programs in Milwaukee County clearly shows that Madison bureaucrats are not better at solving the complex and unique problems facing the Milwaukee urban area. It is my belief that local governments are closer to the residents and better equipped to be responsive.

We believe that a relocation of services to an unfamiliar site would create unnecessary confusion that will get in the way of vulnerable populations trying to access health care and food shares benefits.

We are requesting that the State Department of Administration reverse this decision. We also fully support an appeal of this decision. We need alternative action from the State to prevent a decision that adversely affects taxpayers and clients in Milwaukee County.

Supervisor Coggs Honors King Advisory, Inc. Founder & Presidents



King Advisory, Inc. members and honorees: Vanessa Key, Kaylynn Blackwell, Shawn Williams, Michelle Crockett and Jacqueline Zeledon.

We had the first annual Mardi Gras Boat Party Fundraiser to raise funds to purchase school supplies. You know we are all about the children and we want to thank our sponsors and the Milwaukee Community for being about the children. We want to give a special thank you to our sponsors: Riverwalk Boat Tours & Rentals, Great Lakes Distillery, Cardinal Capital Management, Wynn Mortgage and Harley-Davidson.

New Facility for Our Veterans

Milwaukee County Honors Our Soldiers



County Executive Scott Walker, Eric Schwenker of Cardinal Capital, Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb and General Robert Cocroft at the future site of Vet's Place Central on 35th Street and Wisconsin Avenue.

Spring 2009, I attended the groundbreaking of a Veterans housing development on Milwaukee's west side. This development is being made possible in part through \$465,000 of Community Development Block Grant funding approved by the County Board. The 52-unit development will be located at the northeast corner of Wisconsin Avenue and N. 35th Street in Milwaukee. I am pleased to bridge this partnership between Milwaukee County, Vet's Place Central and Cardinal Capital to make a difference in the lives of Veterans. We are working to build a 52-unit environmentally friendly apartment complex. When our Veterans come home, they will have another option that recognizes the honor they deserve.

It is my pleasure to recognize the great contributions and sacrifices that our Veterans have made to preserve our freedom in America. The commitment these women and men have made is far beyond what us everyday folks could ever bear. There is no comparison to the level of sacrifice and risk they have endured. Our Veterans make the contribution to risk their lives to protect our National Security. They are our Sheriffs, Police Officers, Fire Fighters, and Soldiers of Past and present wars. Lest we not forget the burden that they and their families have endured. We must welcome them back with open arms, while not fully understanding the complexity of all that they have experienced. We look at the strength of the Buffalo Soldiers and the Tuskegee Airmen. Unfortunately, the negative impact disproportionately affects our Soldiers of Color. Many times, veterans of color are homeless, develop mental illness, or become addicted to alcohol or drugs. They are scared, but places like Vet's Place Central can provide a safe haven to help them return to society. Those who have served this country should enjoy the fruits of their labor; they should mount up like eagles. Did you know an eagle would fly right into a storm? Our Veterans have given so much and unfortunately have been given back so little.

Providing affordable quality housing for veterans puts us on the path of creating solutions for people in our community who have helped us in the past and need our assistance now. This collaborative effort would not have been possible without the support of Supervisors Toni M. Clark and Theodore Lipscomb, along with Milwaukee County Housing Administrator Jim Hill, Robert Cocroft from the Center for Veterans Issues, and Capital Cardinal Management. I'm pleased the County Board helped move this project forward.

Supervisor Coggs Advocacy Saves 379 County Job Program Services



Photo taken by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, December 3, 2009

WALKER AND COUNTY BOARD AGREE TO SUSPEND LAYOFF ACTION

Supervisor Elizabeth Coggs, Chair of the Finance & Audit Committee, County Executive Scott Walker and Board Chairman Lee Holloway, have worked together to temporarily suspend layoffs proposed for County employees in 2009.

The decision resulted in agreement that staff from the Executive and Legislative branches meet weekly to closely monitor the fiscal status of Milwaukee County in 2010.

We appreciate the efforts of the County Board to work with us on alternatives to avoid laying off County employees. We will work together to achieve a balanced budget when we close the 2009 books.

"It's refreshing that we all came together in an effort to treat our employees humanely, while still understanding that we must be extremely creative to avoid a deficit at the end of this year," Chairman Holloway said. "I thank the County Executive for reconsidering his position in a thoughtful and responsible manner."

I am pleased that the County Executive has temporarily rescinded these layoffs, but everyone should understand that we are not out of the woods. We are in a crisis situation in Milwaukee County. The Finance & Audit Committee will meet on a weekly basis well into 2010 to identify and corral any available dollars from all departments.

Milwaukee County Parks Director Sue Black Wins National Gold Medal Award from American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration



Milwaukee County Supervisors congratulated the Milwaukee County Parks Department and Director Sue Black for winning the National Gold Medal for Excellence award from the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration.

We are all pleased and excited that Milwaukee County has received this national recognition. We are proud of our partnerships, and we would not have won this award without our Parks sponsors and volunteers. Every year, the County Board fills budget holes left by the County Executive in reference to Parks funding, and we are ecstatic that we have been able to leverage enough power, both from the public and private sectors, to win this award.

Many of my colleagues and I take heat for raising the tax levy a small amount to keep our Parks going, at least in the short-term. The County Executive and others beat us up for that. It is important to recognize that the County Board has stepped up to take a leadership role in providing policy direction and funding for our parks system for many years now.

This Gold Medal award is outstanding. My heartfelt congratulations go out to Director Black and all of the dedicated County workers who maintain our parks every day on a year-round basis.

The award was announced during a ceremony in Salt Lake City, Utah at the American Academy for Parks and Recreation Administration.

Career Youth Development



Woman of the Year:
Alderwoman Milele Coggs
Man of the Year:
Bishop Sedwick Daniels

Let us applaud Bishop Sedwick Daniel, Career Youth Development Man of the Year, and Alderwoman Milele Coggs, Career Youth Development Woman of the Year.

Under the innovative leadership of the new Career Youth Development CEO, Charles Walton, the marathon event as we once knew it was a three-hour affair. The event really highlighted our youth through the arts of spoken word, dance, song and poetry. The CYD Image Award Queen and King Court were presented under the guidance and leadership of Snowbird; she did another great job with the youth. President Earl Hill and Vice-President Bob Spindell did a great job in presenting the history and the journey ahead for the agency. James Nelson, the CYD Image Award Director, did a wonderful job; we all were in awe with the event itself. There were several hundreds of people present to celebrate our youth.

Alderwoman Milele Coggs and Bishop Sedwick Daniels accepted the awards as presented by Charles Walton. Community folks,



Bishop Sedwick Daniel, Career Youth Development Man of the Year and Alderwoman Milele Coggs, Career Youth Development Woman of the Year.

elected officials, business people and community activists all enjoyed the grand occasion, as we know so many of our ancestors were in heaven smiling down, especially our Sister Jeannetta Simpson-Robinson and Mother Claretta Simpson! We say "Go on," Charles Walton, take Career Youth Development to the next level, to right the wrongs and advocate for the injustices of the people. You have proven yourself, and we wish you and your lovely wife, Anisha, the best as you move this community to the next level! God Bless You!

Supervisor Coggs Works Hard for Jobs and Restoring People's Lives



Board Chairman Lee Holloway and Supervisor Coggs pictured with WCS participants.

The Task Force on Work Reform for Men is aggressively exploring creative new methods to employ men of color in Milwaukee County. The Task Force has worked with the State of Wisconsin, Milwaukee Public Schools, the WCS and other community-based organizations to create and maintain jobs for African-American and Hispanic men living in Milwaukee County. The following statistics underscore the why these actions are necessary:

- The incarceration rate for African-Americans in Wisconsin is more than 10 times the rate for whites, higher than any other state. African-Americans make up only 5.7% of Wisconsin's total population but account for 38.8% of the State's incarcerated population.
- The poverty rate for African-American and Hispanic males in Milwaukee County is four times the rate of white males.
- As a catalyst to building strong families and economic growth, more emphasis must be placed on males as heads of households in order to become productive tax-paying citizens within Milwaukee County.

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and other respected institutions have found that Milwaukee's African-American unemployment rate is the 2nd highest in the nation. The Task Force is a tool that we use to identify employment opportunities for these individuals. We need to do everything we can to improve the employment picture for Milwaukee County families.

In 2008, we hosted a job fair at the Silver Spring Neighborhood Center that attracted more than 1,000 people competing for just 100 available jobs. Over 350 youth worked in 2009. The Task Force has also held several Milwaukee County Crisis: We Have Got To Do Something Radical" Roundtable Forums to brainstorm ways to address these major community problems.

As civil rights leader Fannie Lou Hamer once said, 'I am sick and tired of being sick and tired.' Disenfranchisement continues. The major players in Milwaukee continue to ignore the disparities for individuals of color, especially men and those who have been incarcerated. There is a great amount of need in the community. We're trying to develop solutions to the unemployment problem. Krissah Thompson from the Washington Post just visited us to see the equality as we try to restore lives and families.

Supervisor Coggs Thanks The Finance and Audit Committee, Staff and Departments



Over the summer, the actions of the Finance & Audit Committee helped avoid the layoff of 300 employees as well as stall the push for a 35-hour workweek. In November the Committee played a major advocacy role that led to the County Executive's decision to reverse course on his proposal to lay off 180 workers. The dialogue that Chairman Holloway and I had with the County Executive was clearly fruitful and effective. Our special Committee meeting prompted the County Executive to work with us in finding additional cost savings measures, and we are meeting on a weekly basis to identify these savings opportunities while preserving programs, services and jobs.

Under my leadership, this Committee has worked harder than any previous Finance Committee in the recent history of Milwaukee County. Not only have I been articulate and well versed on all subject matters, I have also stood up for people and been a voice of advocacy to ensure programs, services and jobs have been kept in place.

During the budget process, several Supervisors commented that we held the most inclusive and open Finance & Audit Committee budget meetings ever. No Supervisor was denied a chance to address the Committee. Public input was also a priority. We got started early by hosting four listening sessions in all four corners of the County in September. We wanted to get as much public input as possible before the budget was even presented to us. We also did daily "Budget Blasts" detailing the work on the budget as we progressed. We also have a Finance & Audit Committee Facebook group.

I thank all of the members of the Finance Committee: Supervisors Mayo, Thomas, Schmitt, West, Jursik and Johnson.

Children's Court Center Renamed after the Honorable Vel R. Phillips



Supervisor Coggs pictured with Representative Gwen Moore, Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker and the Honorable Vel R. Phillips.

In January, County Executive Scott Walker signed a resolution I sponsored with the strong support of County Board Chairman Lee Holloway recognizing the Honorable Vel R. Phillips. Her recognition for her many contributions to our community was made by renaming the Children's Court Center the Vel R. Phillips Juvenile Justice Center.

I, along with former Governor Patrick Lucey, Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson, Congresswoman Gwen Moore, and County Executive Scott Walker, were at the dedication ceremony. The program featured the unveiling of a portrait of Hon. Phillips painted by Ras Ammar Nsoroma and vocal solos by Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra bassist Laura Snyder.

A Salute to a Great Man Dr. John R. Petersen M.D.



Supervisor Coggs and the Milwaukee County Board salute Dr. Petersen.

Milwaukee County did a special presentation to Dr. Petersen this past Spring to say thanks to a great man of healing. For many years Dr. Petersen ran John Doyne Hospital on the County Grounds. He had major leadership roles around the globe in the World of Medicine. Dr. Petersen also was the Chairman of the International Health Training Institute. Dr. Petersen went on to glory this past summer and will be sorely missed.

Record-breaking year for 2009 Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Back to School Festival!

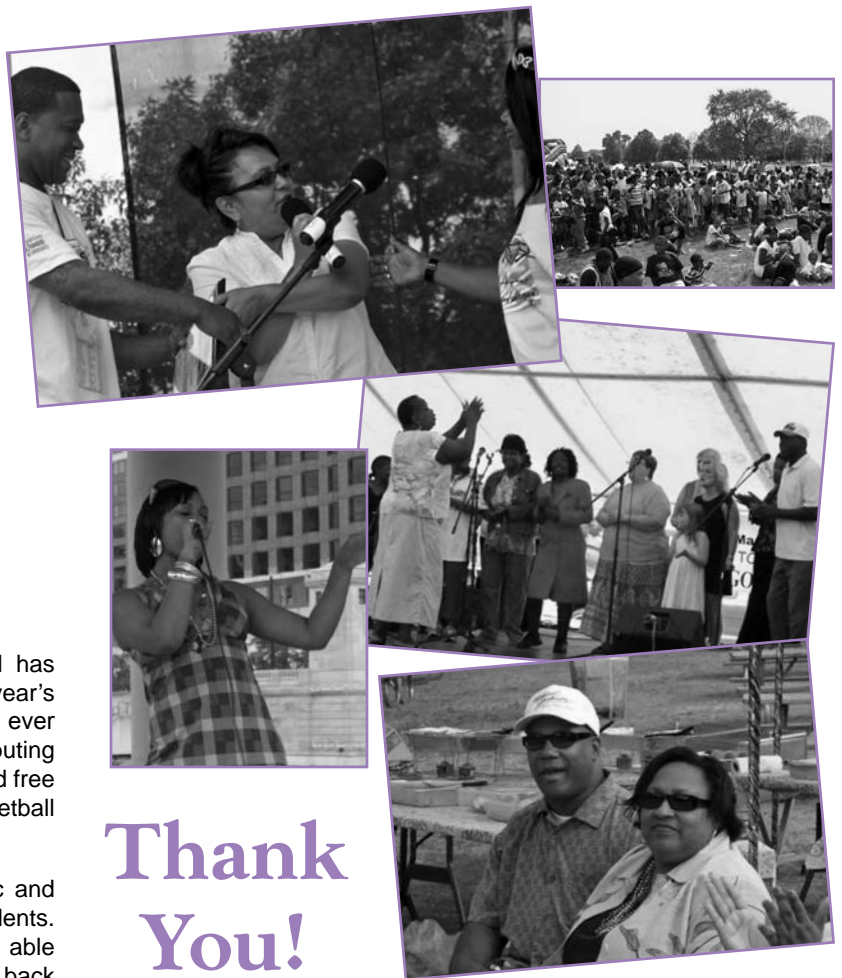
We Can, We Did and We Will Continue...

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Back-to-School Festival has become the highlight for many in the community. This year's theme was "Reclaiming the Dream," and for the first time ever included a parade down Vliet Street. In addition to distributing backpacks to thousands of students, the event also featured free food, music, rides, a youth talent show, 3-on-3 youth basketball tournament and raffle prizes.

We started this festival back in 1995 by hosting a picnic and providing 75 plastic bags with free school supplies for students. This event has grown every year and I'm humbled to be able to help so many children have everything they need to go back to school ready to learn. Since the first Back-to-School, 3,500 volunteers have served 120,600 attendees and given away 38,000 book bags full of school supplies.

I'd like to extend my deepest appreciation to King Advisory, Inc. Under the leadership of President Shawn Williams, Vice-President Kaylynn Blackwell, Treasurer Vanessa Key and Secretary Felicia Dickerson, we had a record-breaking year in 2009 with more than 25,000 people attending the 15th Annual festival in King Park. The members of King Advisory, Inc. also include Nancy Hahn, Minister Quincy Johnson, Daniela Matthews, Makia Reed, Charles Reese, Tammi Summers, Pastor Debora Taylor, Jacqueline Zeledon and Ad-Hoc members Sue Black, Jeff Baudry, Laurie Panella, Guy Taylor, Lamont Johnson, Dee McCollum, Danielle McNeil, Representative Leon Young and Roosevelt Prickett.

We applaud this year's Platinum Sponsors, which include new sponsors Brewers Charities and United Healthcare, along with Jammin' 98.3, Menard's and Potawatomi Community Foundation. They directly impact the success of the festival and help prepare our youth for the academic school year. More than 5,000 youth received book bags filled with school supplies. During these difficult times, it is a blessing to help thousands of families prepare for the first day school. This year we had several new sponsors and it is our hope that we will continue to work together to bring the festival to an even higher level next year. Never in my wildest dreams did I think this festival would be going for 15 years strong!



Thank You!

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Please check the items that you would like to request:

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